

# NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

2101 Constitution Avenue Washington, D. C. 20418

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

January 6, 1987

Members of the Academy

Dear Colleagues:

Two weeks ago I informed Academician Guri Marchuk, the new president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, of our delight at the good news that our foreign associate, Academician Andrei Sakharov, and his wife, Dr. Elena Bonner, were being permitted to return to Moscow and that Sakharov would resume his scientific work. (As you may have read in the press reports, President Marchuk visited Sakharov in Gorky.) Academician Yevgeny P. Velikhov, a vice president of the Soviet academy and one with whom I have personally discussed the situation of Sakharov and his wife, was with Vladimir F. Petrovsky, a deputy foreign minister, when the official announcement was made at a press conference. Dr. Velikhov was quoted as saying that he would welcome Academician Sakharov's return to active research at the academy's Institute of Physics. Dr. Sakharov has always retained his membership in the Soviet academy, although he was reportedly stripped of all other honors when sent into internal exile in Gorky in January 1980. Members of the academy in good standing are entitled to a number of privileges, including special medical care, which the Sakharovs deserve.

Dr. Bonner stressed on several occasions last spring, when she was a guest at the NAS Annual Meeting, that our appeals in Dr. Sakharov's behalf should continue to focus on his wish to return to Moscow and to resume his scientific work. In his press interviews, Dr. Sakharov attributed his release from exile to the role of Western academies. It is both gratifying and heartening, therefore, to know that our many efforts, about which I have written you earlier, have been rewarded, and that this wish has been fulfilled. I am hopeful that the decision to

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reestablish formal relations with the Soviet academy and to use these renewed channels of communication to encourage Soviet scientific leaders to address human rights concerns will continue to show results. Time will tell.

I know that along with the numerous and repeated appeals, both public and private, that were made by the officers of this Academy, many individual members have steadfastly continued their own efforts in Dr. Sakharov's behalf. The leaders of Western governments have also played an important role. Thus, I know that Dr. Sakharov's long-awaited return to Moscow and his scientific work gives us all reason for rejoicing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Frank Press".

Frank Press  
President